



Maundy Thursday

Agapé Gathering, Service of the Word, Servanthood Remembrance
April 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
York, PA

AN AGAPÉ GATHERING

We gather tonight around our various tables in our various homes. We come together to remember the events of this night – the night before Jesus died for us. We begin by blessing bread, wine, and other simple foods and beverages that give us the nourishment we need to actively remember the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and to go to the tomb early on Sunday morning.

The presider begins by offering a blessing over wine and other beverages

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of the fruit of the vine: Grant that we who share this wine and these other beverages, which gladden our hearts, may share for ever the new life of the true Vine, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next the presider offers a **blessing over bread:**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you bring forth bread from the earth and make the risen Lord to be for us the Bread of life: Grant that we who daily seek the bread which sustains our bodies may also hunger for the food of everlasting life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The presider now offers a **blessing over other foods:**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen

We take a few moments to check-in with one another.

You are invited to continue with your meal as we continue with hearing the words of salvation from Holy Scripture.

THE WORD OF GOD

A Reading from Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be

a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Time for Reflection

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Time for Reflection

A Reading from the Gospel According to John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord-and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are

messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Time for Reflection

We our focus shifts now to remembering Jesus' invitation and call to be a servant of all. Commonly represented as "foot washing," this act reminds us that just as Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an act of servanthood, we, too, shall "wash" the feet of others. To put it plainly, following Christ means being a servant.

In addition to joining in the prayers, you are also invited to participate, if you desire, in remembering Jesus' example of servanthood. We turn our attention to our vessels of water and towels.

REMEMBERING THE CALL TO SERVANTHOOD

The presider addresses the assembly wit the following words

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service. We all need to remember his example.

Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ, to join me in remembering that we are all called to serve others as Christ our Lord first served us. Remember Jesus' admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others, for "a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

At this time, I invite those who wish to actively remember the act of servanthood that Jesus exemplified in the washing of his disciples' feet to find a way to remember this act. If you are present with your family, you may wish to wash each other's feet, or you wish to wash each other's hands. If no one else is present with you, then you could wash your own hands remembering Jesus' example of servanthood and the call for ours.

We continue with the following.

Presider The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you?

People **I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done. "Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you."**

A Reading from the Gospel According to John 17

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all people,^{*} to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that^{*} you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,^{*} so that the scripture might be fulfilled.¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.^{*}¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.^{*}¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

20 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,^{*} so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I

have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 ‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

Presider I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

People Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

Presider By this shall the world know that you are my disciples:

People That you have love for one another.

Presider And now as our Saviour Jesus Christ taught us we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

 hallowed be thy Name,

 thy kingdom come,

 thy will be done,

 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

 as we forgive those

 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

 and the power, and the glory,

 for ever and ever. Amen.

Our service pauses here. We will continue our service tomorrow, Good Friday, with two opportunities to worship: 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. You are invited to have a cross near you for reflection. You are also invited to have some pieces of water on which you may write prayer concerns.